

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

- One: What is this?
All: This is grace and mercy, the gifts of God which rain down upon us whether we deserve it or not.
- One: What is this?
All: This is salvation and shalom, which God gives to us in the wilderness of our lives.
- One: What is this?
All: This is the manna, the “What is it?” that supports and sustains, the mystery that God shares freely.
- One: If we seek the Lord we will find God among us, a living presence in the wilderness, calling us, sheltering us, saving us.
All: Come, let us seek this Lord.

***OPENING HYMN “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” GtG 65**

- One: Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
All: I am weak,
One: but thou art mighty.
All: Hold me with thy powerful hand.
One: Bread of heaven,
All: bread of heaven,
Unison: feed me till I want no more.
- One: Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow.
**All: Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.**
One: Strong deliverer,
All: strong deliverer,
Unison: be thou still my strength and shield.

One: When I tread the verge of Jordan,
All: bid my anxious fears subside.
One: Death of death, and hell's destruction,
All: land me safe on Canaan's side.
One: Songs of praises,
All: songs of praises
Unison: I will ever give to thee.

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***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

O God, we question your love and fail to heed your guidance. When we speak to you, it is often to beg or complain, not to give thanks. Our greed outruns our gratitude. We live fearfully rather than faithfully. When you assure and bless us, we are not satisfied. O God, forgive us and fill our hearts with gratitude. Infuse your spirit into our beings so that we might be reconciled to you and follow in your way. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***SILENT CONFESSION**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: God's mercy comes to us in our disobedience.
All: God's gracious favor answers our cry for help.
One: God hears our complaining and provides for us in unexpected ways in the desert places of our lives.
All: Let us come to the saving waters.
One: Taste the bread God gives us to eat.
All: We are a people forgiven and blessed.
Unison: Thanks be to God!

***THE PEACE**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.
All: And also with you.
(From your seat, a brief sign of peace may be shared: a wave of the hand, a nod of the head, etc.)

THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS Exodus 16:2-15
Exodus 17:1-7

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON by Pastor Bill Vincent

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

**With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(from A Brief Statement of Faith, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Book of Confessions)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**Pastor: Lord, in your mercy...
People: ...hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Contemporary)*

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection

**Unison Prayer of Dedication*

Our offerings are an expression of our faith, O God. They tell of our thankfulness; they speak of blessings received and cheerfully shared. We are grateful for the privilege of giving from the abundance you provide. With our offerings we rededicate our lives and work to fulfill your purposes in the world. Amen.

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** “God of Grace and God of Glory” GtG 307

One: God of grace

All: and God of glory,

One: on thy people pour thy power;

**All: crown thine ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.**

One: Grant us wisdom,

All: grant us courage,

Unison: for the facing of this hour.

One: Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn thy Christ,

All: assail his ways!

One: From the fears that long have bound us

All: free our hearts to faith and praise.

One: Grant us wisdom,

All: grant us courage,

Unison: for the living of these days.

One: Cure thy children's warring madness;

All: bend our pride to thy control;

One: shame our wanton, selfish gladness,

All: rich in things and poor in soul.

One: Grant us wisdom,

All: grant us courage,

Unison: lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

One: Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore.

**All: Let the gift of thy salvation
be our glory evermore.**

One: Grant us wisdom,

All: grant us courage,

Unison: serving thee whom we adore.

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

One: Go out to gather and share what God provides.
All: There is work to do; there are people to help.
One: God rains on us daily the bread of heaven;
All: it is ours to receive and share.
One: God bids us drink deeply of life's possibilities;
All: the fountain of God's love never runs dry.
One: Be aware in new ways of God's presence.
All: May we be open to God's gifts and God's call.
One: Every morning you will see the glory of God;
All: every evening you will know God's mercy.
One: Rest in the knowledge that God always provides.
May the God who is always near
bless and keep you on your journey.
And let the gathered people of God say...
All: ...Amen.

POSTLUDE

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